

**Aspira, Inc. of Illinois**  
**Fiscal Year 1997**  
**Highlights to date**

**July 16, 1996 \* First Annual Golf Outing**

- Aspira held its First Annual Golf Outing fund-raiser at Nordic Hills Resort
- Over 100 golfers participated.

**August 7, 1996 \* Reception at Ravinia Park**

- Aspira held a pre-concert cocktail & dinner reception for funders, friends and other Aspira supporters at Ravinia Park.
- The concert featured the renowned percussionist Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri and his Octet, Yolanda Duke, Arturo Sandoval, Poncho Sanchez and David Sanchez.
- The event helped Aspira raise \$3,000 and provided publicity for Aspira.

**September 28, 1996 \* LDI Officers Training**

- Key note speaker Rudy Lopez, Midwest/Northwest Voter Registration Project

**October 16, 1996 \* Community Forum on Proposition 187**

- Symposium on proposition 187 and how it affects public education and healthcare
- Guest speakers were Congressman Luis Gutierrez and State Senator Miguel del Valle
- The symposium was facilitated and implemented by the newly formed Aspira Education Committee made up primarily of parents who were involved in the APEX Program
- Over 60 people attended including parents and students

**October 27, 1996 \* First Annual Bowlathon**

- Aspira held its first annual bowlathon fundraiser at Diversey-River Bowl
- There were over 35 lane sponsors
- Prizes and trophies were awarded to participating bowlers
- The event raised \$7,000.

### ***November 19, 1996 \* Aspira Alternative High School Open House***

- Aspira Alternative High School celebrated its 10th Anniversary and officially announced the renaming of the school the Dr. Antonia Pantoja High School.
- Funders were present, as were founding members of the high school
- Food and entertainment was provided by the students and used as a fundraiser to raise funds for the graduating senior class.

### ***November 26, 1996 \* Town Hall Meeting***

- A Town Hall Meeting was held to address federal educational policy and how it affects our community.
- This was a joint effort of the Aspira Club Federation and the Aspira Parent Committee.
- Guest speaker was Congressman Luis Gutierrez
- Over 150 students and parents participated.

### ***December 14, 1996 \* Areyto Ceremony***

- Over 200 students representing our 15 Aspira Clubs participated.
- Each club commemorated a Puerto Rican Historical Event by performing either poetry, dance, drama, or song.

### ***January 7, 1997 \* Aspira chosen by the City of Chicago to receive an Award***

- City of Chicago's Mayor Daley presented our Executive Director with a \$12,000 award from the Muriel Siebert & Co. Entrepreneurial Philanthropic Plan.
- The award was given for Aspira's long-standing work with Latino Youth in Chicago.

### ***January 9, 1997 \* Dr. Antonia Pantoja H.S. Celebrates Three Kings Day***

- As part of a series of Celebrations commemorating the 10th Anniversary of our high school, the students and staff honored founding member of the high school, Thelma Speller, who has been teaching at the school since it opened in 1986.
- Parents, community members & supporters attended a student dramatization of the Three Kings which included poetry readings and dance performances.